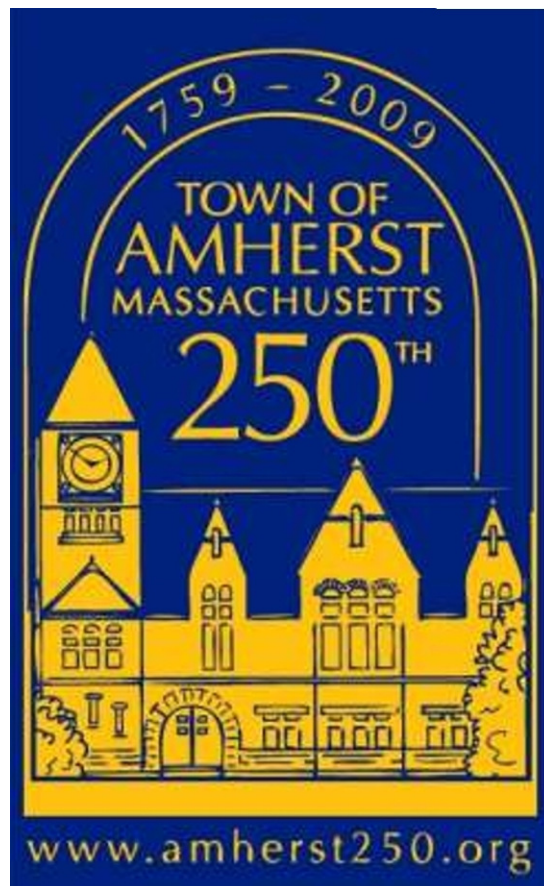


Amherst Historical Commission

2009 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 18

FY10 CPA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS



Welcome to Amherst's 251st Annual Town Meeting! In developing CPA historic preservation projects for Amherst's 250th Anniversary, the Historical Commission has built on nearly a decade of careful planning for such projects, including:

WEST CEMETERY (1998 to present) - Past restoration efforts for Amherst's oldest and most historic place include:

- West Cemetery designated one of the Commonwealth's "Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources" (1998)
- West Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1998)
- Development of the WEST CEMETERY PRESERVATION PLAN (1998-1999)
- Installation of a new perimeter fence and restoration of the two gates (2000-2002)
- CPA funding for lighting and signs (2003-present—power for lighting recently installed as part of entrance improvements)
- Design and installation of a community history mural (2003-2005)
- Redesign of North Pleasant Street entrance (2005-present—entrance rebuilt as part of the North Pleasant streetscape improvements)
- Restoration of 250+ headstones in the oldest sections of the cemetery (2006-2009—to be completed this spring).

FY10 West Cemetery Preservation Projects

- ***Historic Ironwork Restoration*** - \$25,000 will buy: 1) restoring the cast-iron fencing around the Dickinson family plot, 2) the first stage of restoring and replacing the badly-deteriorated Cutler plot fencing (parts of which are missing), and 3) a new historically-appropriate Town Tomb door.



1. Dickinson plot fencing



2. Cutler plot fencing



3. Town Tomb door
(www.flickr.com)

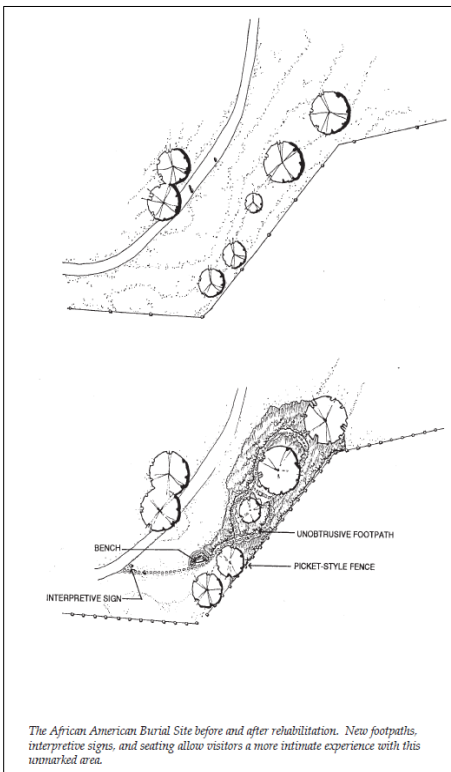
- ***Town Tomb Reconstruction*** – \$30,000 will buy: 1) careful labeling and disassembly of the stone face of this crumbling 1855 tomb, 2) new foundations, and 3) reassembly of the tomb. Previously-appropriated CPA funds (\$5,000) will pay for the structural engineering needed. This project should be accompanied by replacement of the tomb door and restoration of the surrounding landscape.



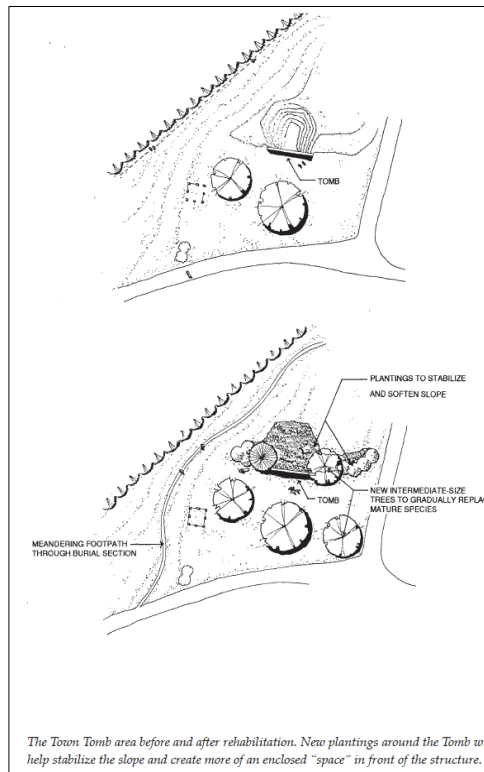
The Town Tomb in West Cemetery



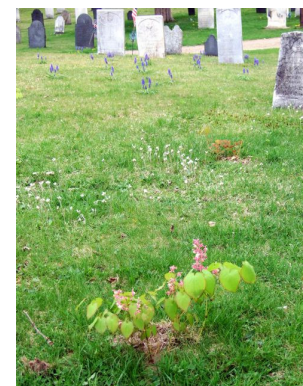
- ***Landscape Restoration*** – \$20,000 will buy restoration of historically-appropriate plantings, improved access, seating, and interpretive markers for the three oldest sections of West Cemetery—the 1730 Knoll, the African-American section, and the Town Tomb area (map). Some plant materials and professional-quality labor can be donated, but several kinds of improvements are needed, including new trees, new walkways (stone paving), seating, and interpretive markers.



Conceptual Plans & Recommendations from the West Cemetery Preservation Plan



African-American Section of West Cemetery



2009 Landscape Improvements on the 1730 Knoll

AMHERST PRESERVATION PLAN (2005 to present) - Developed over two years using \$20,000 in CPA funds, the community-based Amherst Preservation Plan recommends a range of actions, including direct preservation of high priority historic properties (public and private), and a series of public education activities, district or site nominations, and inventories and studies—all of which are necessary precursors to direct preservation of important historic community resources. The Amherst Preservation Plan is part of the draft Master Plan.

FY10 Historic Buildings & Material Preservation Projects

- ***Kimball House*** - This \$25,600 is the third of five annual payments to the state as a result of trading APR land for preservation of the pre-1815 Federal brick Kimball farmhouse at 575 North East Street.



The Kimball Farmhouse



- ***Archival Materials*** - This \$20,000 is the fourth of five annual investments in conserving and restoring historic documents, photos, and other materials housed in the archives of the Town Clerk and Jones Library Special Collections.



Image of Grange Store delivery cart, ca 1910
(digitalamherst.org)



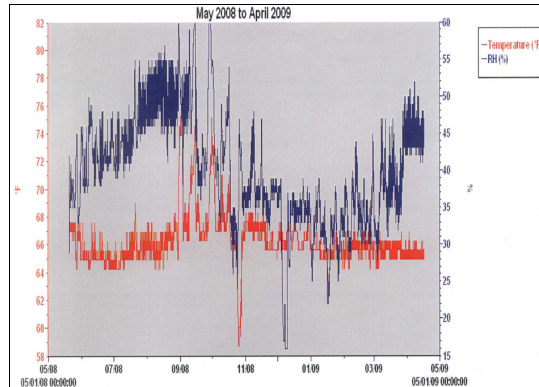
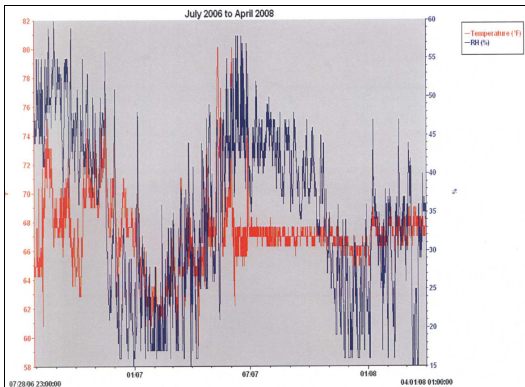
Amherst Academy and Parsons House, before 1868

- ***Jones Library Roof*** – This \$15,000 pays for: 1) inspection and analysis of the historic slate roof, 2) development of historically-appropriate bid specifications required by state law, and 3) emergency repairs for the leaking slate roof of this unique historic building.



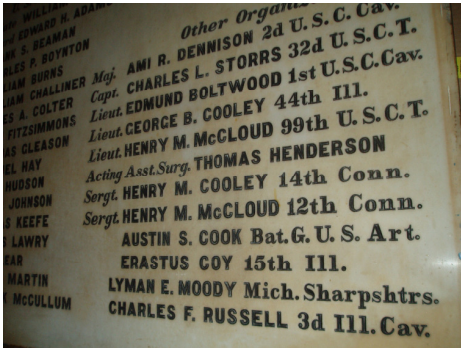
Jones Library Roof (original slate roof is the darker color)

- ***Jones Library Special Collections HVAC*** – This \$10,000 pays for: 1) inspection and analysis of the heating, cooling, and humidity control needs of the three-room Special Collections section of the Jones Library, where many of Amherst's most important historic materials are housed, 2) development of bid specifications for a separate climate control system, and 3) emergency interim climate controls, if needed.



Fluctuating Temperature and Humidity in Special Collections

- ***Civil War Tablets*** – This \$65,000 pays for: 1) secure crating, safe transport, cleaning and conserving six (6) large marble tablets bearing the names of Amherst's Civil War soldiers, 2) inspection and analysis of the structural integrity of potential display locations in Town Hall, 3) preparation of designs and bid specifications for protective display enclosures and interpretive information, and 4) construction of enclosures for and installation of two (2) of the six (6) tablets. Private fundraising or additional CPA funds will be sought to pay for enclosures and installation of the remaining four (4) tablets.



Civil War Tablets in storage at Ruxton

- ***North Congregational Church Roof*** - \$7,000 buys repair of a section of the slate roof of this 1826 community landmark, and a preservation agreement.



Roof of North Congregational Church

FY10 Interpretive Signs, Nominations & Inventories

“Develop, install, and maintain a system of signs and street furnishings to mark historic districts and village centers, and to encourage tourism.”

“Continue to expand and maintain the existing sign program, providing better way-finding cues for visitors and creating more visible signs . . .”

“Create walking tours for Amherst’s historic districts . . .”

[*Amherst Preservation Plan*, pp. 37-38]

- ***“Writer’s Walk” Historic Signs*** - \$30,000 pays for a minimum of ten (10) permanent pedestrian signs marking a tour of the homes of historic Amherst writers—Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Robert Francis, Noah Webster, Helen Hunt Jackson, Mabel Loomis Todd, Eugene Field, Ray Stannard Baker [“David Grayson”], Howard & Lilian Garis, Mary Heaton Vorse, and others.



Emily Dickinson Homestead
(<http://jschumacher.typepad.com>)



Frost and Francis pictured
on West Cemetery Mural



Fort Juniper, home of Robert Francis

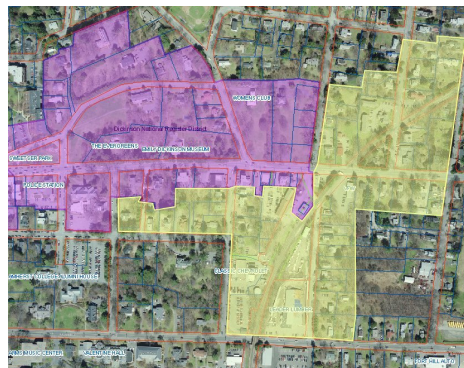
“Complete National Historic Register work [nominations] for . . . Railroad Depot Area . . . [and at least 15 other potential NHR districts].”

[*Amherst Preservation Plan*, pp. 36, 38- 39]

- ***Historic Register Nomination, Dickinson & Depot*** - \$10,000 pays for MHC property inventory forms (w/ research and photos) and completed nomination packages sent to the state and National Park Service in order to: 1) expand the existing Dickinson NHR District, and 2) create a new Amherst Depot District highlighting Amherst’s industrial past and nearby residential development.



Aaron Warner Jr. House, recently nominated
of Amherst Depot District (shown in yellow)



Potential expansion of Dickinson District and creation

"Update the existing [Historic Resource] inventory by . . . completing [MHC] forms for the . . . landscapes and structures which were not included in previous efforts."

[Amherst Preservation Plan, p. 36]

- ***Historic Resource Inventory, Barns & Outbuildings*** - \$15,000 pays for completed MHC inventory forms for all of Amherst's historic barns and outbuildings, which are disappearing to neglect, demolition, and inappropriate conversions. Once on Amherst's Historic Resource Inventory, permitting protections can be developed for these important structures.



Outbuilding in south Amherst



Historic barns in north Amherst



Barn at the Black Walnut Inn in North Amherst